

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

DRONES BILL 2018

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable David Adeang MP

6 March 2018

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to this House today a Bill for an Act to regulate the importation, sale and use of drones.

Mr Speaker, like the initial airplanes or cars, drones are a part of the huge technological shift and not a fad that might fade in a few years. A number of drones for commercial and recreational use have been allowed entry into the Republic. You may have seen a number of them flying overhead or being sold in shops or on Facebook.

The days when drones were only used by the military and law enforcement are long gone. Anyone can now walk into an electronics store or toy store even and buy a drone. No instruction, no registration and no requirement to know the rules on safety. More alarming, no clear understanding of the havoc one plastic toy can cause.

Drones are being used in a range of ways — in scientific research, engineering, film and TV production, photography, agriculture, power line inspection, and search and rescue work. In future, we may even see such technology used for goods delivery.

Sounds good doesn't it? But, what if you are on the receiving end of a drone's gaze? It is no secret that many recreational drones are equipped with cameras – and that people can be very curious. Drones including toy drones for recreation or hobbies can just be as intrusive to people's privacy and quiet enjoyment of everyday living. As it stands, our protection against unauthorised observation is limited.

Mr Speaker, with the popularity of drones, we have a responsibility to address the potential menace to public safety and our privacy with the appropriate regulatory framework. Technology is like a hammer; it can either build a house or break a house.

Mr. Speaker, accompanying the Bill is an explanatory memorandum that explains the Bill in clearer detail.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.